

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

# BULLETIN

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 42, NO. 10

MAY 2018

### *SERVICE NOT SELF*

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

Post Election Reports must be submitted no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS), which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

Department Roster reports must be filled out by the Department Adjutant and returned to the office of the Adjutant General no later than the day following the close of your Department Convention. Do not delay in submitting your information.

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

We are now 55,759 behind our last year's figures as of April 25, 2018. The time to recruit is now! Find local events and arrange to get a booth. Farmers markets, gun shows, trade shows, spring and summer festivals are all great places to recruit local veterans. Bring along recruiting materials as well as materials on VFW Programs. If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1-888-JOIN-VFW or [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org). If you're needing help to pay for a booth at a local event, call your Department Quartermaster as they have the funds available to help you get there.

#### **INSTALLMENT LIFE**

**Now Post and Department Quartermasters** have the option to enroll "NEW" members as installment Life on the Online Membership System. See the Hip Pocket Training for Nov/Dec link. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz\\_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi)

Note: Once the member is enrolled, the member will receive a confirmation email. They have to click and approve the installment in order for the installment to be completed.

#### **MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK**

Make sure you 'like' and 'share' our VFW National Membership Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW: <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/>.

**Recruiting Notes:** To be eligible for All-American, all Post, District and Department levels need to make sure that all new recruit and reinstated members equal to 5% of Prior Year Total.

Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

In March 2018, annual members who are five months prior to their membership expiration date should have received a Wrap Edition of their VFW magazine with a special offer to upgrade to Life membership.

**Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

**Enrollment Cost:**

**Annual Payouts:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>	<b><u>Post</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

***What will your Legacy be?***

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Top Three Recruiters (as of 4/25/2018):**

**Kenneth L. Kraft - 350**

VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

**Larry M. Gerlt - 304**

VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Glenn E. Hohman - 230**

VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

VFW Post No. 12169 in Williston, North Dakota

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CIC KANSAS CITY SPREE WINNERS!**

The Membership Team at National Headquarters is looking forward to welcoming the following Kansas City Spree Winners on May 3 – 6, 2018.

**District Winners:**

**Nay Smith**, Dist. 3, EU; **Charles P. Wilson**, Dist. 10, VA; **Phillip J. DuBois**, Dist. 17, TX; **Chris A. Beaty**, Dist. 10, NE; **Charles R. Spain**, Dist. 7, PI; **Clarence J. Larson**, Dist. 7, AZ; **Russell L. Pryor**, Dist. 11, IN; **Donald L. Reed**, Dist. 15, OR; **Edward V. Le Blanc**, Dist. 17, MA; **Bruce M. Ashley**, Dist. 14, KY; **James D. Gay**, Dist. 9, MS; **James W. Allenbrand**, Dist. 2, OR.

**Post Winners:**

**Floyd W. Stewart**, Post 4709, TX; **Joseph T. Allen**, Post 3285, MD; **Don Kirkley**, Post 3893, TX; **Bert W. Key**, Post 4273, OR; **Carolyn, E. Bullis**, Post 5988, MA; **Travis W. Holden**, Post 738, IA; **Charles L. Barnsely Sr.**, Post 1946, CT; **Joe R. Lewis**, Post 10577, CA; **Thomas D. Waltenburg Jr.**, Post 2486, IL; **Alexander B. Fores**, Post 124, PI; **David A. Cope**, Post 4111, OH; **Kenneth A.**

**Stein**, Post 12146, PI; **Jerry W. Thomason**, Post 3010, CA; **Merlin N. SESCO**, Post 3769, KY; **James Niedzielski**, Post 10802, TX; **Paul J. Theobald**, Post 856, TX; **Peter J. Power**, Post 851, NY; **Richard C. Depontee**, Post 4238, MO; **Milton B. Renick**, Post 6737, WV; **Restituto N. Estacio**, Post 1063, PA.

## **ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES**

**Digital Membership Cards:** Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

**V-mail:** Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from national. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.

**Hip Pocket Training:** Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) in advance and we will cover them on the next training video. We also post these webinars on our Facebook page! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here: [https://youtu.be/z\\_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz\\_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi-HYPERLINK-IT?ASK\\_TARA](https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi-HYPERLINK-IT?ASK_TARA).

**Changes to "Find a Post":** When a visitor goes to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) in their browser, one of the first links they will see at the top of the page is "Find a Post." Clicking on this link takes the visitor to a page where they can enter a zip code or city and state and then search by distance for VFW Posts in the area. Now, in addition to the Post information, they will see the dues amount for the Posts in their area. This is useful information for veterans looking to connect with a local Post, but it is also useful information for recruiters looking to connect veterans with a Post in their area. Lastly, when you click on "Find a Post," you will see a link to "Click here for Non-U.S. Posts" which will provide you with a comprehensive list of all the VFW Posts located overseas.

## **VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:**

**CONVENTION HOUSING:** 119th National Convention housing opened February 21, 2018. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [www.vfw.org/convention](http://www.vfw.org/convention). You may also call the VFW Housing Bureau directly (#877-464-6840) - M-F, 8:30a-9:00p MT (International #980-337-3372) to make reservations. Please note the **housing cut-off is June 18, 2018**. Please **do not wait** to make your room reservations. Department hotel room blocks are selling out quickly! There are no guarantees rooms will be available if you wait until the cut-off date. The convention website has links to other general convention related information for Kansas City, MO - July 21-25, 2018.

## **VFW FOUNDATION:**

### **VFW's #ThankBK APPRECIATION DAY**

The VFW National Commander is asking all VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to recognize our great friends at Burger King (BK) by mobilizing membership to visit your local BK restaurant and say “thank you” by participating in the **VFW’s #ThankBK Appreciation Day** on Armed Forces Day – Saturday, May 19, 2018.

Since 2007, Burger King franchisees and their customers have contributed over \$5 million to the Unmet Needs program which has provided assistance to nearly 9,000 veterans and military families who have experienced unexpected financial difficulties. For additional information about the Unmet Needs program, go to the VFW website at <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>.

Proudly wear your VFW caps while ordering, leave your business cards, [present this appreciation letter](#) we’ve prepared for you, and let Burger King management know that the VFW is there to support their restaurant as they, in turn, have supported our Unmet Needs program.

Please also encourage your family, friends and fellow VFW members to dine at Burger King on this VFW #ThankBK Appreciation Day. Let’s make this a nationwide event! We’ve prepared a flyer and additional web banner assets for your use in helping to spread the word even further at this [link](#).

For questions about this event, please contact Ben Vargas, Assistant Manager, Special Projects, at (816) 968-2720 or email at [bvargas@vfw.org](mailto:bvargas@vfw.org).

### **ACE HARDWARE MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS**

The VFW has teamed up with Ace Hardware to give away 1,000,000 stick flags in the weeks leading up to Memorial Day in an effort to mark as many veterans’ graves as possible. Participating Ace retailers nationwide will donate up to 200 flags to their local VFW Posts. Ace will also distribute flags to their customers while supplies last.

If your Post receives a shipment of stick flags, be sure to use them to decorate veterans’ graves or distribute them throughout your community this Memorial Day. Please note that participating Posts were selected by Ace Hardware based on their proximity to participating stores. Not all Posts will receive flags.

Look for more information on this initiative in the coming weeks by visiting [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) or following the VFW on social media.

For questions about this event, contact Kevin Jamison, VFW Foundation Assistant Director of Corporate Relations at [kjamison@vfw.org](mailto:kjamison@vfw.org) or 816-968-1175.

### **VFW MOBILIZES TO COMBAT HUNGER**

It is a sad realization that 1 out of 8 Americans do not have enough to eat and that 27% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans face daily hunger. In response, the VFW will be collaborating with Humana and local Kansas City-based nonprofit food providers, After the Harvest <https://aftertheharvestkc.org/> and Harvesters <https://www.harvesters.org/> to launch the “Uniting to Combat Hunger” campaign on June 6.

The goal of the campaign is to provide 50,000 meals in the Kansas City area, and the project coincides with the 119th VFW National Convention, July 21-25, also in KC. As a kick-off, volunteers will participate in an After the Harvest “gleaning” event on June 6 to include hand picking edible crops that still remain in local farmers’ fields after a formal harvest.

In addition, Harvesters will place food donation barrels at various KC businesses as well as on the VFW National Convention floor. Convention-goers are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate. The Harvesters Mobile Pantry will be on site if attendees prefer to purchase food items at convention.

There will also be a Convention food-packing opportunity on July 21-22 where VFW/Auxiliary members can be part of the VFW efforts to combat hunger.

For questions about this event, please contact Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation Manager, at (816) 968-1124 or email at [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org).

### **HENRY VFW TRIBUTE EDITION RIFLES**

Henry Repeating Arms continues to offer the Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifles directly from their factory at very special pricing to VFW Posts and members.

These rifles are a great way for your Post to boost fundraising efforts, increase profits, recognize member volunteer efforts or milestones, and for members to build a personal collection.

There are two models, both Made In The USA; the VFW Post Tribute Edition and the VFW Tribute Edition. Both models are collector's items and unique to the Posts and/or members ordering these one-of-a-kind rifles.

For information or to order your Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifle, contact Sandra at (866) 200-2354 or [sandra@henryusa.com](mailto:sandra@henryusa.com) or visit [www.henryusa.com](http://www.henryusa.com) and type VFW in the search box.

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:**

#### **Are You Registered to Vote?**

Midterm elections are taking place this year, and veterans and their families are a key voting bloc. Ensuring that you are properly registered to vote is a priority. If you have moved, changed your name, changed party affiliation, or have not voted in more than a year, you may need to update your voter registration. It is very simple to do, but deadlines and requirements vary depending on the state or territory in which you live. Time is of the essence as many states have not yet held their primary elections prior to Election Day on November 6. The website <https://vote.usa.gov> is the best way to find all of the information you need to ensure you are properly registered to vote in your state or territory.

### **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs** – The VFW has been presented with a great opportunity by generous friends of the VFW. They have offered to triple your gift until June 7, 2018, up to \$50,000! Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in finding and training for jobs when they return from long deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and justice FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. Be as generous as you can and send your gift in by June 7, 2018, to make sure it is tripled!

**Show Your Patriotism!** – Late in May, the VFW will mail patriotic address labels. We hope they inspire you to send a generous donation so we may continue providing much-needed services for our fellow veterans. The nickels that you see attached to your address labels may not seem like all that much to many people. But, it's thanks to these nickels, plus another and another from concerned VFW members and supporters like you that we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our fellow veterans need. So please, return the nickels with your donation to add to all the others to keep our programs strong! Thanks to the continued support of members like you, veterans receive help filing for their hard-earned VA benefits, receive life-changing assistance and have their voices carried to Capitol Hill to fight for legislation to protect their rights. And please, remember to display the United States Flag in honor of all veterans and service members.

**Honor Your Hero This Memorial Day** – The VFW is calling on every grateful citizen to honor their personal heroes on the VFW Wall of Honor, a special online tribute to the service and sacrifice of veterans. Please visit [heroes.vfw.org/honorwall](http://heroes.vfw.org/honorwall) to view the VFW Wall of Honor and post the name of a friend or family member. The VFW hopes to add 50,000 names to the VFW Wall of Honor by May 28, 2018!

**May is National Military Appreciation Month** – Is your Post planning to commemorate a special event for Military Spouses Day on May 11, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Armed Forces Day on May 19, National Maritime Day on May 22 or Memorial Day on May 28?

If your Post is planning a special event this month to commemorate any of the above mentioned special days, please share your success story with us. We will be looking for special stories from Posts like yours to feature in upcoming monthly e-newsletters and on [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) in the Story Archive. You may email your story to [success@vfw.org](mailto:success@vfw.org).

**Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle!** – You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members – the VFW Heroes Circle! Consisting of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made the extraordinary commitment to America’s veterans, service members and their families.

To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org). More information is available online at [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving).

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1-833-VFW-GIVE (1-833-839-4483) or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says “Find Out What’s Happening” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to [heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools](http://heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools). The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## **VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:**

Meeting times at the National Convention in Kansas City:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting  
Sunday, July 22, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**  
Sunday, July 22, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

### **“BUDDY”® POPPY:**

By the time you read this, VFW and Auxiliary members will have spread out across the landscape distributing the familiar red poppy. Although we emphasize “Buddy”® Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, “Buddy”® Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.” Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning “Buddy”® Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as last year. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 21, until noon, Monday, July 23, 2018. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS “WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM.”** The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: [ww1cc.org/poppy](http://ww1cc.org/poppy)

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4l49mZso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso).

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

### **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

#### Insurance Central

There is nothing more important to you than the people you love. That's why it is critical to take the steps to protect them and their financial security with individual Term Life Insurance Plans.

As a VFW member, you now have the opportunity to protect your family's financial security through individually tailored Term Life Insurance Plans. With your VFW membership, you can even save up to 70% on a Term Life Insurance Policy.

Compare different insurance companies to see which offers the right Life Insurance protection at the lowest rate possible. To start your Term Life Insurance search, click [here](#).

### **PROGRAMS:**

**DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS.** Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM.** The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.



1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

**For VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.**

**Applications are available at [www.VietnamWar50th.com](http://www.VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program.** The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM.** This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816-756-3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** April is the perfect month to begin contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or call (816) 968-1116.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2018-19 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Why My Vote Matters" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "Why I Honor the American Flag."

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES.** The new 2018-19 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms will be available on the VFW website on approximately April 1, 2018.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities**, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, as of April 1, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/>  
Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

**VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2017-18 PROGRAM YEAR.** Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post, District and Department level are completed. After Department judging, each Department forwards the entries of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and, an all-expenses paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention in July 2018 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Store, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

The Department report forms for the Teacher Award program were due to National Headquarters by April 15, 2018. If you have not sent them in, please email them to [Tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:Tbeauchamp@vfw.org), or fax to (816) 968-1149 to the attention of Tammy Beauchamp. If you have any questions, please contact the VFW Programs office at (816) 756-3390, ext. 6287.

**HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG.** The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

**VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM.** This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2017-18 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

**WORLD WAR I COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP.** In observance of the upcoming centennial of World War I, a total of 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 a piece will be awarded for the restoration of 100 World War I Memorials across the United States. The first 50 of these were announced on September 27, 2017, and the second 50 will come from ROUND #2 of the matching grant challenge.

Any municipal government, individual, or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about-the-program.html>

The VFW role is to help publicize the program and get local Posts (and Auxiliaries) involved.

A sample project is at: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/resources.html#project-profiles>. (See the Ocean Springs video.)

A fun starting point is to first find memorials around the country. Information on this is at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>. Scouting groups and 4-H Clubs can also get involved.

There is a process for submitting a grant application, which helps to guide the local organization in assessing the project and getting all the right approvals (local governments, historical societies, etc.) before beginning any work. In their blog, they got a question from a VFW Post about the grant writing process which is meant to help guide the applicant - <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog.html>.

To participate and submit a grant request, go directly to - <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/2016-07-06-00-52-42.html>.

- As you know, 2018 marks the centennial of World War 1. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The WW1 Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at [www.ww1cc.org/veterans](http://www.ww1cc.org/veterans). Here are a few suggestions:

-- Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, WA, talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

--Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the "War that Changed the World."

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WW1 coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War 1 Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WW1 National Memorial with a "digital" remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of "Over There" in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

--Raise money for the Memorial by supporting the **WW1 Poppy Program**.

-- **Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at [www.ww1cc.org](http://www.ww1cc.org).

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1116.

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the

POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2018 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28, 2018 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, 2018 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

**VFW STORE:**



Get items you need for your Memorial Day events and “Buddy”® Poppy campaigns at the VFW Store! We have flags, grave markers, memorial wreaths, “Buddy”® Poppy posters, brochures, donation canisters and more! To see Memorial Day merchandise, go to

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday>. For “Buddy”® Poppy, <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.



**The VFW Store is always adding new products! ►** Pictured are new caps, a shot glass, a new tie and patriotic socks. Check out the new items we’re adding at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems>.



**▲ Spruce up your Post this spring!** Stewart Signs is a licensed vendor of outdoor signs for your Post, and spring is a great time to spruce things up! Check out Stewart Signs and our other licensed vendors online at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/partnersandlicensedvendors>.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

ACOHIDO, BEN V., Commander, Department of Hawaii, 2012-2013 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of 1st Filipino Infantry Regt Post 1572, Waipahu, Hawaii, April 4, 2018.